UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER
SINGH, SATWANT K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/901,974	SIMPSON ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Satwant K. Singh	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>24 April 2007</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,5-9,11-15,17-21 and 23-38* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,5-9,11-15,17-21 and 23-38* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>09 July 2001</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1.   This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 04 April 2007.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 8, 14, 20, 26, and 32 have

been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for

all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described
> as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to
> be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been
> obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which
> said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the
> invention was made.

4.   Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-15, 17-21, and 23-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferlitsch (US 2002/0138558) in view of Aiello,

Jr. et al. (US 6,337,745).

5.   Regarding Claim 1, Ferlitsch teaches a method for providing queue

management and production device status in a distributed environment,

comprising: placing production data received from a client in a queue (Fig. 2,

printing queues 45, 55), the production data including production options (user

enters data and/or instructions) (page 3, paragraph [0036]) for a target document

identified by the client (user initiates a print job) (page 4, paragraph [0045]);

generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing

production data held in a queue (Fig. 1, input interfaces 20) (page 3, paragraph

[0036]), the production data to be delivered to on of a plurality of production devices (managing and processing print jobs in a networked environment ... one or more printing devices illustrated as printers 60 and 62) (page 4, paragraph [0040]); presenting the queue interface to a client (receiving a broadcast) (page 2, paragraph [0027]); and presenting the status interface to the client (management of print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0027]).

Ferlitsch fails to teach a method for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, comprising: generating a status interface for the production device selected through the queue interface.

Aiello, Jr. teaches a method for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, comprising: generating a status interface for the production device selected through the queue interface (Fig. 9, operator may sort the Job queue status table using options in a Job queue status table view menu) (col. 7, lines 31-37).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Ferlitsch with the teaching of Aiello, Jr. to allow a user to view the printing status of a particular printing device and to help determine the load on the printing device.

6.   Regarding Claim 2, Ferlitsch teaches a method, further comprising managing the production data in the queue in accordance with instructions entered through the queue interface (management of print jobs includes initiating a broadcast) (page 2, paragraph [0027]).

7.   Regarding Claim 3, Ferlitsch teaches a method, wherein the acts of generating the queue and status interfaces comprise generating the queue and status interfaces each in the form of a web page (broadcast may follow one of a variety of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

8.   Regarding Claim 5, Ferlitsch teaches a method, wherein the acts of generating and presenting the status interface for the production device comprise generating and presenting the status interface once the production data is delivered to the production device (once print job has been despooled) (pages 6 and 7, paragraph [0065]).

9.   Regarding Claim 6, Ferlitsch teaches a method, wherein the act of presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise generating and presenting a combined queue/status interface (content of broadcast may include a command field indicating a desire to set/get status of print job, ... and an identification of one or more print jobs) (page 7, paragraph [0066]).

10.   Regarding Claim 7, Ferlitsch teaches a method, wherein: the act of generating the queue interface comprises generating the queue interface in the form of a web page; the act of generating the status interface comprises generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and the act of generating the combined queue/status interface comprises generating the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page (broadcast may follow one of a variety of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

11.   Regarding Claim 8, Ferlitsch teaches a method for mediating access to production devices, comprising: acquiring an access request for a particular one

of a plurality of production devices, the access request originating from a client

(transmitting a broadcast) (pages 4 and 5, paragraph [0048]); presenting to a

client a production interface for the particular production device (Fig. 2, printing

queues 45, 55), the interface having user accessible controls for selecting

production data identifying a target document (user initiates a print job) (page 4,

paragraph [0045]) and one or more production options (user enters data and/or

instructions) (page 3, paragraph [0036]); placing in a queue production data

received form the client and selected through the production interface, the queue

capable of containing production data directed to more than one of the plurality of

production devices (managing and processing print jobs in a networked

environment ... one or more printing devices illustrated as printers 60 and 62)

(page 4, paragraph [0040]); generating a queue interface having user accessible

controls for managing production data in the queue (Fig. 1, input interfaces 20);

presenting the queue interface to a client (receiving a broadcast) (page 2,

paragraph [0027]); and presenting the status interface to the client (management

of print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0027]).

Ferlitsch fails to teach a method for mediating access to production

devices, comprising: generating a status interface for a chosen production device

selected through the queue interface.

Aiello, Jr. teaches teach a method for mediating access to production

devices, comprising: generating a status interface for a chosen production device

selected through the queue interface (Fig. 9, operator may sort the Job queue

status table using options in a Job queue status table view menu) (col. 7, lines
31-37).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at
the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Ferlitsch with the
teaching of Aiello, Jr. to allow a user to view the printing status of a particular
printing device and to help determine the load on the printing device.

12.   Regarding Claim 9, Ferlitsch teaches a method, wherein the acts of
generating the queue and status interfaces comprise generating the queue and
status interfaces each in the form of a web page (broadcast may follow one of a
variety of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

13.   Regarding Claim 11, Ferlitsch teaches a method, wherein the acts of
generating and presenting the status interface for the production device comprise
generating and presenting the status interface once the production data is
delivered to the production device (once print job has been despooled) (pages 6
and 7, paragraph [0065]).

14.   Regarding Claim 12, Ferlitsch teaches a method, wherein the act of
presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise generating and presenting a
combined queue/status interface (content of broadcast may include a command
field indicating a desire to set/get status of print job, ... and an identification of
one or more print jobs) (page 7, paragraph [0066]).

15.   Regarding Claim 13, Ferlitsch teaches a method, wherein: the act of
generating the queue interface comprises generating the queue interface in the
form of a web page; the act of generating the status interface comprises

generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and the act of

generating the combined queue/status interface comprises generating the

combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page (broadcast

may follow one of a variety of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

16.   Regarding Claim 14, Ferlitsch teaches a computer program product for

providing queue management and production device status in a distributed

environment, The product comprising a computer useable medium having

computer readable instructions thereon for: placing production data received

from a client in a queue (Fig. 2, printing queues 45, 55), the production data

including production options (user enters data and/or instructions) (page 3,

paragraph [0036]) for a target document identified by the client (user initiates a

print job) (page 4, paragraph [0045]); generating a queue interface having user

accessible controls for managing production data held in a queue (Fig. 1, input

interfaces 20) (page 3, paragraph [0036]), the production data to be delivered to

on of a plurality of production devices (managing and processing print jobs in a

networked environment ... one or more printing devices illustrated as printers 60

and 62) (page 4, paragraph [0040]); presenting the queue interface to a client

(receiving a broadcast) (page 2, paragraph [0027]); and presenting the status

interface to the client (management of print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0027]).

Ferlitsch fails to teach a product for providing queue management and

production device status in a distributed environment, comprising: generating a

status interface for the production device selected through the queue interface.

Aiello, Jr. teaches a product for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, comprising: generating a status interface for the production device selected through the queue interface (Fig. 9, operator may sort the Job queue status table using options in a Job queue status table view menu) (col. 7, lines 31-37).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Ferlitsch with the teaching of Aiello, Jr. to allow a user to view the printing status of a particular printing device and to help determine the load on the printing device.

17.   Regarding Claim 15, Ferlitsch teaches a product, further comprising instructions for managing the production data in the queue in accordance with instructions entered through the queue interface wherein the queue manager is further operable to manage production data in the queue in accordance with instructions provided through the queue interface (management of print jobs includes initiating a broadcast) (page 2, paragraph [0027]).

18.   Regarding Claim 17, Ferlitsch teaches a product, wherein the instructions for generating and presenting the status interface for the production device comprise instruction for generating and presenting the status interface once the production data is delivered to the production device (once print job has been despooled) (pages 6 and 7, paragraph [0065]).

19.   Regarding Claim 18, Ferlitsch teaches a product, wherein the instructions for presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise instructions for generating and presenting a combined queue/status interface (content of

broadcast may include a command field indicating a desire to set/get status of

print job, ... and an identification of one or more print jobs) (page 7, paragraph

[0066]).

20.   Regarding Claim 19, Ferlitsch teaches a product, wherein: the instructions

for generating the queue interface comprise instructions for generating the queue

interface in the form of a web page; the instructions for f generating the status

interface comprise instructions for generating the status interface in the form of a

web page; and the instructions for generating the combined queue/status

interface comprises instructions for generating the combined queue/status

interface in the form of a framed web page (broadcast may follow one of a variety

of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

21.   Regarding Claim 20, Ferlitsch teaches a computer program product for

mediating access to production devices, the product comprising a computer

usable medium having computer readable instructions thereon for: acquiring an

access request for a particular one of a plurality of production devices, the

access request originating from a client (transmitting a broadcast) (pages 4 and

5, paragraph [0048]); presenting to a client a production interface for the

particular production device (Fig. 2, printing queues 45, 55), the interface having

user accessible controls for selecting production data identifying a target

document (user initiates a print job) (page 4, paragraph [0045]) and one or more

production options (user enters data and/or instructions) (page 3, paragraph

[0036]); placing in a queue production data received form the client and selected

through the production interface, the queue capable of containing production

data directed to more than one of the plurality of production devices (managing

and processing print jobs in a networked environment ... one or more printing

devices illustrated as printers 60 and 62) (page 4, paragraph [0040]); generating

a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing production data

in the queue (Fig. 1, input interfaces 20); presenting the queue interface to a

client (receiving a broadcast) (page 2, paragraph [0027]); and presenting the

status interface to the client (management of print jobs) (page 2, paragraph

[0027]).

Ferlitsch fails to teach a product for mediating access to production

devices, comprising: generating a status interface for a chosen production device

selected through the queue interface.

Aiello, Jr. teaches teach product for mediating access to production

devices, comprising: generating a status interface for a chosen production device

selected through the queue interface (Fig. 9, operator may sort the Job queue

status table using options in a Job queue status table view menu) (col. 7, lines

31-37).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Ferlitsch with the

teaching of Aiello, Jr. to allow a user to view the printing status of a particular

printing device and to help determine the load on the printing device.

22.   Regarding Claim 21, Ferlitsch teaches a product, wherein the instructions

for generating the queue and status interfaces comprise instructions for

generating the queue and status interfaces each in the form of a web page

(broadcast may follow one of a variety of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

23.   Regarding Claim 23, Ferlitsch teaches a product, wherein the instructions

for generating and presenting the status interface for the production device

comprise instruction for generating and presenting the status interface once the

production data is delivered to the production device (once print job has been

despooled) (pages 6 and 7, paragraph [0065]).

24.   Regarding Claim 24, Ferlitsch teaches a product, wherein the instructions

for presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise instructions for

generating and presenting a combined queue/status interface (content of

broadcast may include a command field indicating a desire to set/get status of

print job, ... and an identification of one or more print jobs) (page 7, paragraph

[0066]).

25.   Regarding Claim 25, Ferlitsch teaches a product, wherein: the instructions

for generating the queue interface comprise instructions for generating the queue

interface in the form of a web page; the instructions for generating the status

interface comprise instructions for generating the status interface in the form of a

web page; and the instructions for generating the combined queue/status

interface comprises instructions for generating the combined queue/status

interface in the form of a framed web page (broadcast may follow one of a variety

of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

26.   Regarding Claim 26, Ferlitsch teaches in a computer network, a system

for providing queue management and production device status, the system

comprising: one or more production devices (Fig. 2, printers 60 and 62), each

production device having a production server (clients 40 and 50) operable to

generate a status interface for the particular production device (clients 40 and 50

keep one or more queues of spooled print jobs per accessible printing device)

(page 4, paragraphs [0041] and [0042]); a client operable (Fig. 1, computer

device 10) to display a user interface (monitor or display screen) (page 3,

paragraph [0037]) ; a mediation service in electronic communication with the

client and the production device or devices (network 64), the mediation service

operable to place production data received from the client in a queue (Fig. 2,

printing queues 45, 55), the production data including production options (user

enters data and/or instructions) (page 3, paragraph [0036]) for a target document

identified by the client (user initiates a print job) (page 4, paragraph [0045]),

generate a queue interface having user accessible controls (Fig. 1, input

interfaces 20) (page 3, paragraph [0036]) for managing the production data to be

delivered to one or more of the production devices and held in the queue

(managing and processing print jobs in a networked environment ... one or more

printing devices illustrated as printers 60 and 62) (page 4, paragraph [0040]),

present the queue interface to the client (receiving a broadcast) (page 2,

paragraph [0027]).

Ferlitsch fails to teach a system, presenting to the client the status

interface for a particular one of the production devices selected through the

queue interface.

Aiello, Jr. teaches a system, presenting to the client the status interface for

a particular one of the production devices selected through the queue interface

(Fig. 9, operator may sort the Job queue status table using options in a Job

queue status table view menu) (col. 7, lines 31-37).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Ferlitsch with the

teaching of Aiello, Jr. to allow a user to view the printing status of a particular

printing device and to help determine the load on the printing device.

27.   Regarding Claim 27, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein the mediation

service includes a queue manager operable to manage production data in the

queue in accordance with instructions provided through the queue interface

(management of print jobs includes initiating a broadcast) (page 2, paragraph

[0027]).

28.   Regarding Claim 28, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein the mediation

service includes an interface generator operable to present to the client the

status interface for the particular production device selected through the queue

interface (broadcast to get the status of a network printing device) (page 7,

paragraph 0069]).

29.   Regarding Claim 29, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein the interface

generator is further operable to generate and present the queue and status

interfaces in the form of a combined queue/status interface (content of broadcast

may include a command field indicating a desire to set/get status of print job, ...

and an identification of one or more print jobs) (page 7, paragraph [0066]).

30.   Regarding Claim 30, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein: at least one of

the production servers includes a web server operable to generate the status

queue in the form of a web page associated with a first network address; and the

interface generator of the mediation service functions, at least in part, as a web

server operable to generate the queue interface in the form of a web page

associated with a second network address and to present the combined

queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page having a first frame

referencing the first network address and a second frame referencing the second

network address (broadcast may follow one of a variety of formats) (page 4,

paragraph [0046]).

31.   Regarding Claim 31, Ferlitsch teaches a system, further comprising an

interface generator operable to present to the client the status interface for a

production device once production data is delivered from the queue to that

device (once print job has been despooled) (pages 6 and 7, paragraph [0065]).

32.   Regarding Claim 32, Ferlitsch teaches a system, a system for providing

queue management and production device status, the system comprising: one or

more production devices (Fig. 2, printers 60 and 62) each having a production

server (clients 40 and 50) operable to generate a status interface and manage

production of a target document (clients 40 and 50 keep one or more queues of

spooled print jobs per accessible printing device) (page 4, paragraphs [0041] and

[0042]); a client operable to issue an access request for a selected production

device (Fig. 1, computer device 10) and to display one or more interfaces

(monitor or display screen) (page 3, paragraph [0037]); a queue for storing

production data (Fig. 2, print queues 45 and 55) (page 4, paragraph [0041]); an

interface conduit in electronic communication with the client and the production

server or servers (network 64), the interface conduit operable to acquire the

access request originating from the client (transmitting a broadcast) (pages 4 and

5, paragraph [0048]), present to the client a production interface for the

production device to which the request is directed (clients 40 and 50 keep one or

more queues of spooled print jobs per accessible printing device) (page 4,

paragraph [0042]), and to place in the queue production data received from the

client and selected through the production interface (management of print jobs)

(page 2, paragraph [0027]); a queue manager operable to deliver production data

from the queue to the production server for the production device to which that

production data is to be delivered (management print jobs) (page 2, paragraph

[0027]).

Ferlitsch fails to teach a system comprising: an interface generator

operable to generate and present to the client a queue interface and to present to

the client the status interface for a particular one of the production devices

selected through the queue interface.

Aiello, Jr. teaches a system comprising: an interface generator operable to

generate and present to the client a queue interface and to present to the client

the status interface for a particular one of the production devices selected

through the queue interface (Fig. 9, operator may sort the Job queue status table

using options in a Job queue status table view menu) (col. 7, lines 31-37).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Ferlitsch with the teaching of Aiello, Jr. to allow a user to view the printing status of a particular printing device and to help determine the load on the printing device.

33.   Regarding Claim 33, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein the interface generator is further operable to present to the client the status interface for a production device selected through the queue interface (broadcast to get the status of a network printing device) (page 7, paragraph 0069]).

34.   Regarding Claim 34, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein the interface generator is further operable to present the queue and status interfaces in the form of a combined queue/status interface (content of broadcast may include a command field indicating a desire to set/get status of print job, ... and an identification of one or more print jobs) (page 7, paragraph [0066]).

35.   Regarding Claim 35, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein: the interface generator and at least one of the production servers each function, at least in part, as a web server; the production server being further operable to generate the status interface in the form of a web page associated with a first network address; and the interface generator being further operable to generate the queue interface in the form of a web page associated with a second network address and to present the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page referencing the first and second network addresses (broadcast may follow one of a variety of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

36.   Regarding Claim 36, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein the interface

generator is further operable to present the status interface for that production

device once that production data is delivered (once print job has been

despooled) (pages 6 and 7, paragraph [0065]).

37.   Regarding Claim 37, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein: the interface

generator and at least one of the production servers function at least in part as

web servers; the production server being further operable to generate the status

interface in the form of a first web page; and the interface generator being further

operable to generate the queue interface in the form of a second web page

(broadcast may follow one of a variety of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

38.   Regarding Claim 38, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein the queue

manager is further operable to manage production data in the queue in

accordance with instructions provided through the queue interface (management

of print jobs includes initiating a broadcast) (page 2, paragraph [0027]).
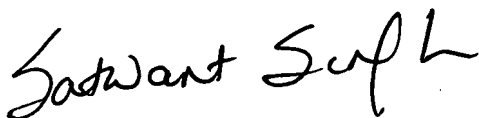
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from

the examiner should be directed to Satwant K. Singh whose telephone number is

(571) 272-7468. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday

8am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the

examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571) 272-7437. The

fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is

assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Satwant K. Singh
Examiner
Art Unit 2625

sks

DAVID MOORE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600